

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on February 12, 2013 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Michael Rell, Vice Chairperson
Cynthia Greenblatt, Clerk
Douglas Ovian, Alternate
Paul Courchaine, Alternate

Members Absent: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
John Maycock
Mark Raymond
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate

Also Present: Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator
Linda Messina, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Rell called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Greenblatt, Clerk Pro Tem, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on January 31, 2013.

APPLICATION NO. 4118-13. Eric Cavioli seeking to either upgrade windows using a Connecticut Bi-Glass proprietary process or install replacement windows at 311 Main Street.

Eric Cavioli, 311 Main Street, and Dick Fritzer, Connecticut Bi-Glass, 1033 Prospect Avenue, West Hartford, appeared before the Commission. They would like to repair the existing windows using the Connecticut Bi-Glass proprietary process. They will be repairing all 16 windows on the house. They will use this process to rebuild the windows using as much of the existing windows as possible, restore them, and make them more energy efficient. A demo window was provided. The windows will be painted white.

The homeowner is also open to using all wood Trimline replacement windows in a 6/6 light pattern with true divided light.

Commissioner Rell asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4119-13. Matthew Cooper seeking to install replacement windows in the kitchen and install two (2) air conditioner condensers with lattice screening at 179 Broad Street.

Matthew Cooper, 130 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. He would like to replace five windows in the kitchen. They are currently industrial windows from the 1950s on the house. He would like to use Jeld-Wen all wood windows with SDL and grids applied to the interior and exterior. Window #1 will be a double window with a 6/1 light pattern, #2, #3, and #5 will be double windows with an 8/1 light pattern, and window #4 will be a single window with an 8/1 light pattern.

For the air-conditioning units, he will have two American Standard units. They will be two different units but basically the same size. They will be located directly off of the sunroom in the back of the house. He will surround them with wood lattice. He will build a 2" x 4" wood frame approximately 84" x 42" x 35" high.

Commissioner Rell asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4120-13. Town of Wethersfield seeking to install "Heart Safe Community" signage on an existing sign post on Marsh Street.

Lori DiPietro, 505 Silas Deane Highway, appeared before the Commission. The Connecticut Department of Public Health has initiated a program called Heart Safe Community. It signifies that there are 50 residents within the town trained on CPR and EED. It is a 12" x 18" metal and vinyl sign and it is located on Marsh Street. The hope is to have people see the signs, further educate more people, get them more involved and save more lives. The sign is already up.

Commissioner Rell asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell seconded by Commissioner Greenblatt, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Rell, Greenblatt, Courchaine, Ovian

APPLICATION NO. 4118-13. Eric Cavioli seeking to either upgrade windows using a Connecticut Bi-Glass proprietary process or install replacement windows at 311 Main Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Greenblatt seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulation:

1. The windows shall be replaced using the Connecticut Bi-Glass proprietary process.

Discussion

Commissioner Greenblatt stated that there isn't enough info to make a decision on the other windows tonight.

Commissioner Ovian stated that he didn't want to see the owner penalized by bringing in two different options. The main difference would be the muntin width and visibility of the jamb. The Trimline product probably has a visible modern jamb line, but many modern windows have a vinyl jamb liner of some kind. Some do a better job minimizing that than others, but a lot of them are pretty visible and that house is relatively close to the street.

Commissioner Rell stated that the Bi-Glass process allows you to match like for like using the existing materials. The Bi-Glass process is something he would like to see more of in the District.

Aye: Rell, Greenblatt, Courchaine, Ovian

APPLICATION NO. 4119-13. Matthew Cooper seeking to install replacement windows in the kitchen and install two (2) air conditioner condensers with lattice screening at 179 Broad Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Greenblatt seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The windows shall be replaced with Jeld-Wen all wood windows with the muntins permanently affixed to the interior and exterior with the light patterns to be as submitted.
2. The air conditioner condenser lattice screening shall be constructed of wood with wood lattice.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that the Commission doesn't need to be specific about the size of the lattice. He would like to leave the type of lattice up to the homeowner as long as it is square or diamond patterned. This is an example of a pre-application hearing being a success.

Commissioner Rell stated that he agrees that the pre-application hearing was a success.

Aye: Rell, Greenblatt, Courchaine, Ovian

APPLICATION NO. 4120-13. Town of Wethersfield seeking to install “Heart Safe Community” signage on an existing sign post on Marsh Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Greenblatt seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to DENY the application without prejudice.

Discussion

Commissioner Greenblatt stated that she can’t believe that this is an after the fact application. She thought it was a Valentine’s sign because there wasn’t any education on what the sign represents. When does this ever stop? This one just appeared and it’s something to think about.

Commissioner Ovia stated that one issue is that normally the town wouldn’t come to us for permission to install a stop sign, so he can see that there are times when a sign would go up without our approval, but this is closer to the way-finding signs that went through years of review and have still resulted in a questionable product that isn’t being deployed throughout the town. Just about every town has these gateway areas where they can put these kinds of standardized signs. He doesn’t know if this is the best place for this sign.

Commissioner Rell stated that some of the Commissioners had voiced their concerns about the sign being up. His concern is with the applicant, The Town of Wethersfield, much like the bench that they have seen and other applications that have come before the Commission, it is after the fact. As Commissioner Courchaine stated, how many more signs are there going to be? This is just one sign of possibly many.

Aye: Rell, Greenblatt, Ovia

Nay: Courchaine

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2013

Upon motion by Commissioner Greenblatt, seconded by Commissioner Courchaine and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the January 22, 2013 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Rell, Greenblatt, Courchaine, Ovia

APPOINT CLERK PRO TEM FOR TIME PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 12, 2013 – JUNE 1, 2013

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by Commissioner Courchaine and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to appoint Commissioner Greenblatt at Clerk Pro Tem for the time period February 12, 2013 – June 1, 2013.

Aye: Rell, Courchaine, Ovia

PRE-APPLICATION HEARING

Dennis Walter, 326 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. He discussed the changes he would like to make:

1. He would like to install photo-voltaic solar panels on the garage in the back yard.
2. He would like to add a bump-out to the house. The house is aluminum sided. It would be between 18” and 24” to allow him to do some things in the kitchen.

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

None.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovan, seconded by Commissioner Greenblatt and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 9:06 PM.

Aye: Rell, Greenblatt, Courchaine, Ovan

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Cynthia Greenblatt
-Clerk Pro Tem -